

Third Sunday of Easter

May 1, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Laurie Knapp

(As the Prelude begins, prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

Call to Worship "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus" Choir
Greeting 6

*Hymn "Blessed Assurance" 369

Opening Prayer 6

(Please register your attendance on the pew pads provided.)

Prayer for Illumination 6

New Testament Reading Revelation 5:11-14 Page 239 (N.T.)

Psalter Psalm 30 762-763

*Hymn "Open Our Eyes" TFWS 2086

Gospel Reading John 21:1-19 Pages 111-112 (N.T.)

New Testament Reading Acts 9:1-20 Pages 121-122 (N.T.)

Sermon "Regaining Sight" Rev. John D. Jordan

Response to the Word "The Apostles' Creed" 7

Invitation 7

Confession and Pardon 8

Passing of the Peace

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory "There's Something About That Name" Choir

*Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 95

Thanksgiving and Communion 9-11

*Hymn "Amazing Grace" 378

*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response "Thank You, Jesus" Choir

*Postlude Laurie Knapp

*The Congregation May Stand

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor: John D. Jordan

Pianist: Laurie Knapp

Time Together: Mary Louise Robinson

AV Director: Marie Stiles

AV Assistant: Chris Derrick

VISITORS ARE WELCOME in the service of worship! Please make use of the visitor's tags (located in the pew backs) to help us better welcome you as a visitor to Trinity this morning. We ask that you also please fill in the pew pad as it passes to register your attendance with us. **Large print hymnals** are available from the ushers.

You may join as a member into the life and work of this congregation by Confession of Faith or by Transfer of Membership from another church. If you would be interested in becoming a member, please speak to the pastor.

TODAY'S LOVELY FLOWERS are given to the **Glory of God** who has given us so much love and in honor of **Mary Kamoroff** who has loved me as one of her children for the past 39 years. Happy early Mother's Day Mary, by **Bonnie Ramsey**.

“AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION, WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS MINISTRIES BY OUR PRAYERS ...

Jackie McNeill	Charles McNeill	Becky Derrick	Charlie Hooker	Patsy Zeigler	Christopher McCroskey
Jimmy Grahl	Oren Edwards	Hilda Edwards	Steve Aiello	Patsy Shuler	George Taylor
Kay Jordan	John Ballentine	Boots Morgan	Dale Wells	Marty Johnson	Latson Lewis

Shut-Ins: Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Nell Cooke; Gillett Hipp; June Hutto; Georgeann Pace; Shirley Padgett; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; Irvin Wells

Family and Friends: **Kevin Horseman** (neighbor of Jeanette Hornsby); **Mary Collard** (daughter of Jackie McNeill); **Howard Stephens** (friend of Sue Ballentine); **James Boggs** (father of Claire Boggs); **Stacy Coggins** (daughter of Steve Aiello); **Dan & Leslie White** (brother & sister-in-law of Steve White); **Cindy Bassett, Alva Humphries** (friends of Marty Johnson); **Judy Bauer** (cousin of Marty Johnson); **Neal Hart** (uncle of Dee Senn); **Bill Areheart** (friend of Bonnie Ramsey); **Jane & Bob Bryant** (sister and brother-in-law of Patsy Zeigler); **Max Nova** (son of friend of Edwa Meek); **Addie Kinard** (cousin of coworker of Edwa Meek); **Stuart & Penny Lloyd** (son & daughter-in-law of Tom & Marilyn Lloyd); **Cindy Ellenberg** (friend of Ray Frady); **Megan Corby** (daughter of Carlis Edwards); **Chip Hooker** (Wayne Hooker's father); **Robert Bradley** (Business Associate of Simon Ross); **Dino & Wanda Moore** (friend of Tommy Gleaton); **Gary Becton** (friend of Mark Branham); **Wade Albert Payne** (friend of Mary Louise Robinson); **Monnie Tiller** (friend of Chris Derrick); **Adrin & Linda Hargett** (stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); **Alexa Lookingbill** (wife of coworker of Kathy White); **Katelyn Rose** (daughter of co-worker of Kathy White); **Vickie Edwards** (neighbor of Kathy White); **Beverly Jordan** (sister-in-law of John Jordan); **Renea Eshleman, Ty Moore, George Dorn** (friends of Kay Jordan); **Teddy Derrick** (uncle of Arvan Derrick); **Haidee Baehr** (friends of Ruth Frady); **Dianne Schmotzer** (sister-in-law of Gale Frady); **Denise Paul, Scott & Karen Nelson** (cousins of Gale Frady); **Dan Conner, Max Johnson** (friends of Gale Frady); **Ray Culbreth's Group House; Nellie Gantt** (mother of friend of Ray Culbreth); **Amelia Zinski** (great-niece of Linda Maloch); **Wayne Blair** (son of Dot Johnson); **Xavier Crane** (grandnephew of John Ballentine); **Walt & Janet Beck** (friends of Jo Ann Heiting); **Earle Watson** (father of friend of Jo Ann Heiting); **Adam Lavender** (son of Phil Lavender)

If you have a friend or family member on the Prayer List, we ask you to please keep us updated. If no word is received, we will trust that our prayers have been answered and remove the name. To update us, please call the office or e-mail us at trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com.

OUR PRESENCE ...

Attendance 04/24 SS: 7 Worship: 20

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 04/24 \$ 2,415.69

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Church Calendar

TODAY Lunch Bunch

05/02 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

05/04 Class Meeting, 7 p.m.

05/05 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.



Ministers

Pastor

Resident Bishop

District Superintendent

The Congregation

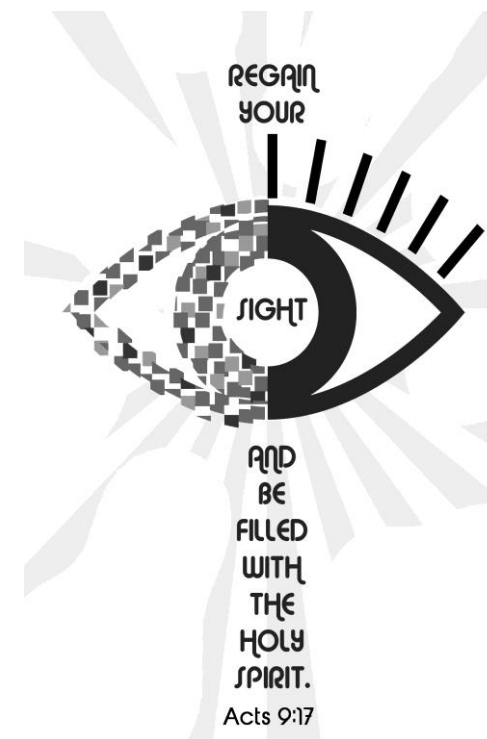
John D. Jordan

Jonathan Holston

Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

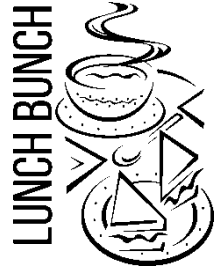
Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform



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Through the month of May, we will be receiving a Love Offering for Christopher McCroskey. As many of you know, Christopher was hospitalized for twelve days after having his big toe on the right foot amputated due to an infection. He will be having physical therapy at home and even though he will be able to play for church, he will not be able to return to substitute teaching this school year. He will also be faced with medical bills that his insurance will not cover. If you would like to contribute to this Love Offering, please make the check out to Trinity and write Love Offering in the Memo Line. The Love Offerings will be tax deductible.



Lunch Bunch will meet today immediately following the service. Everyone is invited to bring a covered dish and join in this time of fellowship and food.



Mother's Day is **May 8**. There will be a special combined Time Together to celebrate *Birthdays* and *Mother's Day*.



Wednesday, May 11

Join us on May 11 for Wonderful Wednesday. The meal will be prepared by **Gale and Ruth Frady**:

Fried Chicken	Yellow Rice
Baked Beans	Baked Apples
Dessert	

The meal will start at 5:30 p.m. and be followed by a devotional at 6:15 p.m. The cost of the meal is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 6–12 and \$1.00 for children 2–5. A reservation form will be in the bulletin on Sunday, May 8 or you can call the office by noon on Monday, May 9.



Graduate Recognition
Sunday, May 15

On Sunday, May 15, we will celebrate our graduates. We currently show **Kara Howard** and **Dee Hughes** graduating from High School, **Matthew Skipper** graduating from college (in December), and **Slone Taylor** graduating from USC with a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology.

Please contact Ruth Frady or the Church Office if you know anyone else within the church family that is graduating.

Epworth Mother's Day Offering
Sunday, May 8

Next week is Mother's Day. We will buy flowers, call the mothers in our lives, and remember those mothers who have impacted our lives in the past. Most of the children served by Epworth Children's Home will not be celebrating Mother's Day with their birth mothers. Instead, they will be surrounded by loving staff, and foster parents who walk with them daily to provide spiritual, educational, emotional, and physical support. Consider what God is calling you to give to support our church's ministry to the children in South Carolina. Your generous contribution to our church's ministry enables transformation to happen for the children who call Epworth home. Epworth does not receive apportionments from the United Methodist Conference. This offering is our opportunity to support this vital ministry. For more information about Epworth Children's Home, visit them online at www.epworthchildrenshome.org.

A new character enters center stage in the story of the beginnings of the church and Christianity, Saul of Tarsus. Saul had been introduced in the story earlier, having a minor role in the stoning of Stephen. He held the cloaks of those who stoned Stephen and approved of this action.

Little is known about Saul. He was born in Tarsus to conservative Jewish parents who are Roman citizens. The family moved to Jerusalem while Saul was young. He studied under Rabbi Gamaliel, who was the leading Jewish rabbi at the time.¹

Saul became a Pharisee. Pharisees emphasized faithfulness to the Torah. They also gave authority to the “tradition of the elders” which later became codified in the Mishnah. They believed that all God’s people should follow the same purity laws as the priests. Saul was a zealous believer in the Pharisaic tradition, thus he persecuted those who preached that the law was not the way to salvation, particularly those followers of Jesus.

Notice that the Lord tells Ananias that he has chosen Saul to bring his name to the gentiles. Now I will admit that at this point I am speculating, there is no historical evidence for what I am about to say. I imagine Saul knew from a young age that God had chosen him for something special. He may not have known what it was at first. Then he came under the tutelage of Gamaliel. He studied and became enamored with the law. He saw the law as **The Way** and anything else as blasphemy. Perhaps he became so focused on the law that he no longer perceived God.

Paul observes this new sect arising in Judaism, these followers of a Galilean Rabbi named Jesus. They claim that adherence to the law is not what leads to salvation, but a relationship with God through Jesus. Not adhering to the Law! Eating with sinners! Not keeping oneself pure! That is blasphemy! These Jesus followers must be wiped out!

So, Saul approves the stoning of Stephen. Saul gets warrants to arrest the followers of Jesus in Damascus and bring them back to Jerusalem for trial.

But, on the way to Damascus Saul has a vision. He sees Jesus whom he is persecuting. He is told to go into the city and wait to be told what to do. Saul is blinded. He loses his sight not only physically but also spiritually, as he can no longer see the path God wants him to take. He has lost sight of what he thought God wanted him to do.

Then enters a man named Ananias. Ananias is only on stage for this short scene but he has an important role. Ananias is told by God to go to where Saul is. Through Ananias, Saul regains his sight. He sees what God is calling him to do and how God wants to use him.

This may happen to us. We may decide what God’s calling is for us. We may become so focused that we do not see that God may be calling us to something else. Perhaps what we are doing is not what God wants. Maybe we have been doing what God wants but at some point in our life, God has something else for us to do. We may lose sight and need an Ananias to help us regain our sight, so we may truly follow the calling God has for us at any particular moment in time.

¹ Ben Witherington III, *The Paul Quest: The Renewed Search for the Jew of Tarsus*. (Dowers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998) 307.

I felt the call to serve God at a young age. In high school, I knew that I was called to help people. I got my undergraduate degree in sociology and anthropology. I began working with adults with mental illness in Jacksonville. Even though I wanted to work with children (that was Kay's calling), I realized that mentally ill adults were the people God wanted me to help.

We came to Columbia for me to get my MSW and for Kay to continue her work with children. During graduate school, I learned about systems and began to think about ways to change the mental health system. Though I continued to work primarily with individuals, I dreamed of changing the system, particularly to ameliorate homelessness among the mentally ill.

As my career in mental health plateaued, I began perceiving God calling me to something else. I began the process of discernment for ministry, that long road that is finally ending in June. However, during the first few years of the process, I continued to work at Bryan Psychiatric Hospital.

While I was taking my first course at Lutheran Seminary, I was offered the opportunity to become the Director of Social Work at Bryan. I thought YES! I will finally be in a position to make some significant changes in the system. I accepted the position.

I believe it was the same night I took the position, that I met with my instructor, Dr. Barfield. I told her about my good fortune in getting this important position. Her response was, "what does that have to do with your call to ministry?" No congratulations or that's great but this painfully pointed question.

The reality was this position was something I wanted, not what God wanted for me. I was starting down the road God wanted me to take but I had to go back and try the old road. This road led to a dead-end and I ended up resigning from the position about a year later.

Dr. Barfield was one of my Ananias'. Her question and Kay's response led me to see that being the Director of Social Work was no longer God's plan for me. I could more clearly see God's plan for me to go into ordained ministry. Though I remained in the position for a year before giving it up, my enthusiasm for it waned and I began focusing more energy on seminary and serving at Shiloh.

When we lose sight of what God is calling us to do, there may be an Ananias that comes into our lives. It may come through a seemingly off-handed remark like Dr. Barfield's that gets you thinking. It may be through a conversation with a friend. A small group like a Class Meeting may reorient one to see God's will more clearly. For some, it may be a professional therapist or counselor. Be aware that God may be sending someone to ask, "Is what you are doing the way God wants you to go?"

Sometimes we may be an Ananias for someone. We may lovingly point out that someone may be going in the wrong direction as Dr. Barfield did. We may be a conduit for the Holy Spirit to give new sight to someone else. Notice that Ananias did not tell Saul that what he was doing was wrong, but that he may be filled with the Holy Spirit.

We need to be open to the Ananias' in our lives, particularly in times of transition in our lives. We may need others to help us regain our sight of God's calling for us. We may also be an Ananias for someone else. We may be a means by which their sight may be made clearer by loving support and gentle direction.

To put in a plug, our small group class meeting may become a place where we both receive our Ananias and be an Ananias for someone.

Let us be aware of those God may send to help us regain our sight of God's calling for us, and of times we may be sent to help someone regain their sight.